

MANAGEMENT UNIT: LITTLE SUSITNA CORRIDOR

MANAGEMENT INTENT

This area is to be managed to maintain and enhance the recreation/habitat resources along the Little Susitna River.

Where public land now abuts the river, this unit will be managed to provide a continuous scenic recreation experience. Fish and wildlife habitat will be protected, with special emphasis placed on the anadromous fish stream and adjacent riparian areas. This undeveloped corridor will be increasingly important for species (notably moose) migrating between uplands to the northeast and the game refuges and other lowlands to the south and west.

Principal recreational uses will be on and adjacent to the river. To protect these recreation values the unit should be managed to provide both a visual and sound buffer from uses outside the corridor and to protect water quality. Non-road accessible public recreation cabins should be developed with a coordinated river and trail access system. The Division of Parks may recommend that the legislature designate this corridor as a state recreation area. Road access to or across the corridor will be minimized.

Where private land now abuts the river, the state will consider purchase of land for public access. The state will not use the power of eminent domain in such cases but will purchase land from willing sellers to enhance public enjoyment of the river corridor, should funds be appropriated by the legislature for this purpose.

The northern portion of this unit includes a portion of the City of Houston. Management of the public lands inside that boundary should contribute to the city's development plans. Any irreversible management decision (e.g., disposal) must be consistent with the Comprehensive Plan for the City of Houston. In addition, the state and borough will not pursue actions which obstruct any of the Department of Transportation's proposed transportation routes into the city.

To illustrate land use designations, the Little Susitna Corridor unit is divided into two subunits: the Houston wetlands, and the river corridor. Management guidelines presented below apply to both subunits.

SUBUNIT A: HOUSTON WETLAND

Primary Land Uses

- Fish and Wildlife
- Watershed

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Management guidelines for Subunits A and B are presented below.

SUBUNIT B: THE LITTLE SUSITNA RIVER

Primary Land Uses

- Recreation
- Fish and Wildlife

Secondary Land Use

- Forestry

MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES: SUBUNITS A and B

The following guidelines apply throughout the Little Susitna Corridor Management Unit.

Forestry

Timber harvests shall be permitted only where appropriate for enhancement of the recreation and habitat values of the corridor.

Transportation

Road Access to or across the corridor will be minimized, and shall be prohibited between Houston and Burma Road. See also Chapter III, Policies and Management Guidelines; Transportation.

Sub-surface Development

A mineral closing order will be issued for this management unit closing it to all mining.

Water Quality

Water entering the Little Susitna River should remain undiminished in quality and quantity.

Wetlands

Uses on lands adjacent to wetlands will be managed in accordance with Chapter III, Policies and Management Guidelines; Wetlands.

Siting of Public Cabins

Public cabins should be sited by the Alaska Division of Parks in consultation with the Department of Fish and Game and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

AREA-WIDE POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES

Chapter III presents additional policies and land management guidelines which may be relevant to particular decisions in this management unit. Categories of these policies and guidelines are listed below for ease of reference:

	<u>Pages</u>
AGRICULTURE	41
RECREATION	53
FORESTRY	59
FISH & WILDLIFE	67
SETTLEMENT	73
SUBSURFACE RESOURCES	79
TRANSPORTATION	89
WETLANDS	97
RIVER & STREAM CORRIDORS	103
TRAILS	109
PUBLIC ACCESS	113